Henderson, D P

April 1918

(02)

ADDRESS REPLY
TO DR. PRIMROSE
FACULTY OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

University of Toronto
FACULTY OF MEDICINE
TORONTO, CANADA

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Henderson, D. P.

April 18th, 1918.

Sir Robert Falconer,

President, University of Toronto.

Dear President Falconer:-

With reference to the enclosed letter, which I gather you desire returned, might say that I remember this student quite distinctly and he was a very poor type, both physically and mentally.

He has completed two years of the old four years' course, he has standing in the Third Year but has three conditions - Clinical Medicine, Clinical Surgery and Topographical Anatomy and then he failed hopelessly at his examination for the Fourth Year in May 1911, so you will see that he is far from having any grounds for his claim for a degree of M.B.

Only once before have we heard from Mr. Henderson since he left College and he wrote a very peculiar letter at that time also, stating that he would never now get a degree in Medicine and asking for a refund of his degree fee of $20.00 - this letter was sent to the Bursar.

Certain of his classmates who met him in Chicago the year following their graduation, when they were doing hospital work in that city, found him in a pitiful state and thought him at that time quite deranged.

Also, apart from personal reasons, the Faculty Council determined at least two years ago, that the time had gone bye when a student could graduate under the Four Year curriculum, ample time had been given for the completion of their work and that in future these students must spend the fifth year of study and take the examinations provided now for the degree of M.B. We have one such student registered this year, Mr. G. J. Lunz; he had only Clinical Medicine of the old course to take,

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Sir Robert Falconer.

but neglected it for a few years and was compelled to take the full Fifth Year, which he did during the Session just ended.

Yours faithfully,

E. A. Jamieson,

April 19th, 1918

D. P. Henderson, Esq.,

142 York Street,

St. Catharines, Ont.

Dear Sir:

I have made inquiries from the Faculty of Medicine with regard to the possibilities of giving you any further privileges in regard to your standing in Medicine, but I regret to say that there seems to be no likelihood that the Faculty of Medicine would meet your request. I am afraid from the information that I have received that they could not grant any request that would be put in , and of course matters of this kind are settled by a committee and then by the Faculty itself.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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142 York St. St Catharines Ont.

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Secretary Medical College
Toronto University
Toronto.

Dear Sir:-

The writer was a member of Class 1911 in Medicine.

For the last month I have had convictions as never before that I should apply for my diploma in Medicine. Probably this should have been done earlier and although I have always felt that I was not to blame for my failure I wanted to go back and fight it out.

During my first term at College my health received a severe shaking up which I have not been able to offset unto this day. I contracted a cold which stayed with me nearly all the winter of 1907 & 08. The doctors thought I might be going into tuberculosis and

Dr A. McPhedran ordered me to bring a couple of samples of sputum to Dr J. W. McPhedran for examination in the laboratory. The finding was no. T. B. present but altho I got over it I was left in a very susceptible condition and took colds very easily thereafter and in succeeding winters had my own troubles with them.

I carried my first and second examinations. I lost my orals and the first written paper of my third examination not because I didn't know the work but because I was constitutionally weak and too nervous. When the time came for my fourth examination Dr Goldie pronounced me unfit to go up and furnished me with a line to that effect which I delivered to the Secretary.

Getting thru my examination meant so much to me that I went from my bed to my orals but could do nothing.

To illustrate my condition in the spring of 1911 I will cite you an incident which no doubt Dr. McPhedran will be able to recall.

I was assigned a patient with cerebro-spinal miningitis for history taking and soon I thought I was taking the disease myself and was confined to bed for a few days.

After leaving college I spent a couple of years in the country to recuperate and since the war broke out I have taken my place in the munition factory. I have given myself mind and body and soul to the manufacture of shells

My success in Heat-treating steel is the result of my Education at the University of Toronto and even if this letter is of no avail I shall never be sorry that I attended and more over I do not want the committe dealing with this letter to consider my work in the munition plant in reaching their decision for I know everyone should do their part in bringing this war to a close in favor of the allies. If I was granted my M. B. to-morrow I would still stay at my present post until victory is ours. While the war lasts I am in it. All I have saved has gone to paying the money I borrowed to take me to college the Patriotic Fund and the Red Cross and to keeping my family and I make good money

I am employed with the Canadian Crocker Wheeler Co of this city. If you care to write to them they can tell you if I am doing my best or not and the kind of stuff I am made of.

In closing I would say that when the Hun is conquered my next duty will be to help care for the sick and the wounded and I feel with all my heart that my M. B. degree is coming to me or I should not have written this letter.

Wishing Toronto University continued success and that she may ever carry on her good work

I am

Yours very truly

D. P. Henderson.